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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/518,836

12/21/2004

Eugenie Irma Benliyan

NL 020589

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03/05/2008

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS

P.O. BOX 3001

BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

BAIG, SAHAR A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/05/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/518,836

Applicant(s)

BENLIYAN, EUGENIE IRMA

Examiner

SAHAR A. BAIG

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12/21/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/21/2004 & 10/03/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Regarding Claim 13, claiming a computer program product is not patentable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruvolo et al. US Patent Publication No. 2004/0122855 in view of Rosen US Patent No.6,938,218.

Regarding Claim 1, 10, 11, and 13, Ruvolo discloses a system for controlling content of a personalized visual channel for at least one of a number of users, the users supplying visual information and being linkable via a network, which system comprises: relationship means for maintaining relationship information that is indicative of a relational distance between the user and other users [0005 lines 1-6]. Ruvolo fails to clearly describe structure means for providing a visual

structure for display within the personalized visual channel, the visual structure comprising a home element representing a home location of the user, and user elements, each user element representing one of the other users by said supplied visual information, the user elements being positioned at a distance from the home element in dependence on the relationship information. In an analogous art, Rosen discloses a method for geometrically displaying computer files such as pages on the World Wide Web [*Real time information*] or operator interface windows of application software **Figure 6**. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement such a display with the system of Ruvolo for the convenience of viewing all related users on the same display screen. Also the control means for receiving user commands for controlling the structure means is illustrated in Rosen [**Col. 9 lines 61-62; *In another embodiment, a joystick can be used to control a screen pointer***].

Regarding Claim 2, Ruvolo discloses a system wherein the relationship means are arranged for receiving the relationship information from the user based on an acquaintance between the user and said other user, and/or for establishing at least one next level of relational distance based on the relationship information supplied by other users [**0005**].

Regarding Claim 3, Ruvolo discloses a system wherein the relationship means are arranged for applying the relationship information provided by the user for

establishing the relationship information for an inverse relation of said other user to the user [0007].

Regarding Claim 4, Ruvolo discloses a system wherein the relationship means are arranged for determining the relational distance based on at least one of the following user parameters: geographical position, age, personal interest, temperature, light intensity, time zone [0033 lines 1-9].

Regarding Claim 5, Rosen discloses a structural means where the display renderings are actually visualization of relational data [Col. 4 lines 5-15].

Although Rosen does not disclose an annular area of user element, it would have been obvious to ordinary skill in the art to modify Rosen's method in **Figure 6** to include an annular display instead a rectangular one.

Regarding Claim 6, Rosen discloses structural means for organizing an presenting a plurality of related Web pages for view on a computer screen in an apparent three or four dimensional relationship to each other [Col. 3 lines 2-5]. Hence it would have been obvious to display a segment of an annular area user elements according to relationship information of the user element occupying a corresponding segment of a radially inward adjacent annular area.

Regarding Claim 7, Rosen discloses that the structure means are arranged for determining the width of the areas and/or displaying an enlarged part of said structure in dependence of the user commands [Col. 3 lines 45-50].

Regarding Claim 8, Ruvolo discloses the structure means arranged for displaying a selection of the user elements in said structure in dependence of a link to the respective user being available **[0033 lines 1-4]**.

Regarding Claim 9, Rosen discloses that the user control means are arranged for receiving a move command, and the structure means are arranged for moving the user elements in an area **[Col. 3 lines 50-55]**.

Regarding Claim 12, Official Notice is taken on the claimed limitation of providing user registration for users which are allowed to connect a user device to the system via the network. Every user is given unique log-in information to access any sort of computer system. This is well known in the art and would have been an obvious addition to the claimed invention.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. It includes Fung et al. US Patent No. 7,134,092 and Czerwinski et al. US Patent No. 6,188,405.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SAHAR A. BAIG whose telephone number is (571)270-3005. The examiner can normally be reached on 4/5/9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SB


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